

REMARKS

In the original application, Claim 6 was inadvertently numbered Claim 8, and as such, the claims proceeding from claim 6 were misnumbered. From the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner has subsequently renumbered the claims in order to correct the numbering error in the originally filed application. Applicant has formally amended the claim numbers to reflect the proper claim numbers.

a. Election.

The Office Action states that claims 16-17 and 19 are withdrawn from consideration for being drawn to a non-elected Group II-X. Applicant has deleted claims 16-17 and 19 from the application without traverse. Applicant reserves the right to reassert the claims in a continuation or divisional application.

b. Claims 1-6, 10-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 1-6, 10-15 and 18 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,478,546 to Mercer.

The present invention is directed towards a coupling mechanism for coupling a threaded member to a non-threaded member. Prior to the present invention, the non-threaded member would need to have a complementary threaded portion welded thereon in order for the two members to be coupled. To avoid the cost and the delay of welding a threaded portion onto a non threaded member, in one embodiment, the present invention teaches of creating an aperture on the non-threaded member and a threaded couple is then engaged to the aperture. The

threaded couple is then able to threadedly couple to the threaded member, thereby connecting the threaded member to the non-threaded member.

Mercer discloses a quick release bolt system which is comprised essentially of a bolt which is divided in half 11a and 11b and a slide insert 17 which is sandwiched between the bolt halves. The bolt insert provides the spacing necessary to enable the bolt halves to engage a threaded connection. The bolt halves are quickly released from threaded engagement by removing the insert.

Mercer does not disclose the present invention. Mercer's bolt can only couple items which can receive and engage the threading on the two bolt halves. It is not designed to couple a threaded member to a non-threaded member. Furthermore, as amended, the claims reflect that the threaded couple must engage the first member through an aperture in the first member. Assuming that the insert 17 of Mercer corresponds to the first member of the present invention, the insert does not have an aperture therethrough which is engaged by the bolt halves. As such, Mercer does not fully anticipate the claimed invention.

Also, the insert in Mercer is not intended to be coupled, it is designed to slide freely between the bolt halves. Since Mercer does not couple the insert to the bolt halves or the second member there is no motivation for placing an aperture through the insert.

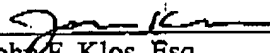
As such, we respectfully request that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:
I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being sent via facsimile to Commissioner for Patents telephone number 703-872-9326 on June 19, 2003.

John F. Klos:


Signature

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